

IN THE CLAIMS

1-51. (cancelled)

52. (currently amended) A wiring circuit panel, comprising:

a first metal layer having a ~~first~~ major surface extending in lateral directions, said first metal layer including a wiring circuit pattern;

~~a plurality of discrete solid metal bumps overlying said major surface of said first metal layer;~~

~~an insulating film overlying said major surface of said first metal layer, said insulating film having a major surface remote from said major surface of said first metal layer wherein tops of said plurality of metal bumps extend upward through openings in said insulating film, said tops being surrounded in said lateral directions by said insulating film; and~~

a plurality of discrete solid metal bumps overlying said major surface of said first metal layer and extending upward through openings in said insulating film, said plurality of metal bumps having upwardly facing top faces, said top faces being flush with exposed regions of said major surface of said insulating film; and

~~a plurality of solder balls disposed on said tops top faces of said plurality of metal bumps, said plurality of solder balls being in conductive communication with said plurality of metal bumps.~~

53. (currently amended) The wiring circuit panel as claimed in claim 52, wherein said first metal layer and said plurality of metal bumps consist essentially of copper.

54. (previously presented) The wiring circuit panel as claimed in claim 52, wherein at least a portion of said insulating film is flexible.

55. (currently amended) The wiring circuit panel as claimed in claim 52, wherein said ~~tops top face~~ of each of said plurality of metal bumps ~~include an upwardly facing is concave surface~~—and said plurality of solder balls contact said concave surfaces ~~top faces~~ of said plurality of metal bumps.

56. (currently amended) A circuit module, comprising:
a flexible circuit panel including
a first metal layer including a wiring circuit pattern having a ~~first~~ major surface extending in lateral directions;
~~a plurality of discrete solid metal bumps overlying said major surface of said wiring circuit pattern;~~
a substantially flexible insulating film overlying said major surface of said wiring circuit pattern, said insulating film having a major surface remote from said major surface of said wiring circuit pattern, wherein tops of said plurality of metal bumps extend upward through openings in said insulating film, said tops being surrounded in said lateral directions by said insulating film;
a plurality of discrete solid metal bumps overlying said major surface of said wiring circuit pattern and extending upward through openings in said insulating film, said plurality of metal bumps having upwardly facing top faces, said top faces being flush with exposed regions of said major surface of said insulating film; and
a plurality of solder balls disposed on said ~~tops top faces~~ of said plurality of metal bumps, said plurality of solder balls being in conductive communication with said plurality of metal bumps; and

a second circuit panel having a substantially rigid dielectric element and a second wiring circuit pattern overlying at least a portion of said dielectric element,

| wherein—said second circuit panel ~~is—being~~ joined to said flexible circuit panel such that said second wiring circuit pattern conductively communicates with said ~~flexible~~—wiring circuit pattern of said flexible circuit panel through said plurality of metal bumps.

57. (currently amended) The wiring circuit panel as claimed in claim 52, further comprising a second metal layer overlying said major surface of said first metal layer, wherein said plurality of metal bumps ~~everlying~~overlie said second metal layer, ~~wherein~~—said second metal layer ~~is—being~~ an etch stop layer which substantially resists an etchant which would attack a first metal included in said first metal layer.

58. (previously presented) The wiring circuit panel as claimed in claim 57, wherein said plurality of metal bumps are formed by etching a third metal layer overlying said second metal layer.

59. (currently amended) The wiring circuit panel as claimed in claim 58, wherein said plurality of metal bumps and said first metal layer each ~~eonsist~~consists essentially of a first metal.